

Initial Roadless Area Inventory Daniel Boone National Forest

Abstract: An initial Roadless Area inventory was done on the Daniel Boone National Forest as called for in 36 CFR 219.17 using the guidelines established in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 7, Section 7. The three roadless areas identified in the 1995 Forest Plan need no further action. They either are wilderness, are no longer within the jurisdiction of the Daniel Boone National Forest or do not qualify as roadless areas. Twelve additional areas were evaluated against the criteria. Only Wolfpen Creek (area 2) met the minimum criteria for a roadless area. Wolfpen Creek is immediately adjacent to Clifty Wilderness.

Re-evaluation of Areas identified in 1985 Forest Plan

Clifty Area

Legislated wilderness area, December 23, 1985, in Kentucky Wilderness Act of 1985, PL 99-197.

Troublesome Area

This area was part of a transfer of jurisdiction to the Corp of Engineers for the development of the Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area. Transferred to jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior - National Park Service, October, 1990.

Cave Creek Area

This area does not meet the following criteria for Roadless Areas as specified in FSH 1909, Chapter 7, section 7.11b, Criteria for Roadless Areas in the East.:

1. The area contains no more than half a mile of improved road for each 1,000 acres, and the road is under Forest Service jurisdiction.

- 11.25 miles of improved road in a 4,300 acre area = 2.61 miles/thousand acres.

2. The area contains only a few dwellings on private lands and the location of these dwellings and their access needs insulate their effects on the natural conditions of Federal lands.

- 1250 acres (29%) Of the area is in private land with numerous private dwellings and access roads through the area.

Originally intended as a proposed underground wilderness to protect the cave system. The 1984 evaluation indicated that the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act implied that congress viewed wilderness as a surface area, available to the general public, and did not contemplate an underground area as wilderness. The acts did recognize geological features, such as the Cave Creek Cave, as a part of wilderness.

In addition, Cave Creek Cave is impacted by man. The 1964 Wilderness Act, "Sec. 2(c) A wilderness,... is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man,... An

area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal Land retaining its primitive character and influence,... and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature,..."

Cave Creek cave is impacted by man in two aspects: 1) there is frequent visitation of the cave system by recreational cavers. Signs of humans use of the cave system last for a long period of time in the fragile cave ecosystems; and 2) The seasonal fluctuation of Lake Cumberland, a man made impoundment, effects the accessibility of portions of the cave, and impacts the cave ecosystem. This fluctuation changes the ecosystem in the cave system frequently.

Possible Roadless Area Survey/Evaluation

A search was made of the Daniel Boone National Forest for areas to consider as possible Roadless Areas. Twelve areas were delineated for consideration by one of two methods of identification:

1. Locating areas identified in the 1991 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) inventory as Semi-primitive, Non-motorized and Semi-primitive, Motorized, then expanding these areas to logical borders such as roads or ridge tops.
2. Occular review of the Forest Administrative Maps to locate areas that had few roads shown.

Once an area was identified, a composite of the topographic maps that covered that area was constructed and the road system shown on the topographic maps was updated and made current as of March, 1995, based on input from James Boyd, coordinator of the Forests Transportation Information System.

After delineation, the areas were evaluated based on direction from three sources: FSH 1909, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b - Criteria for Roadless Areas in the East, effective 8/3/92, (Appendix B), Criteria For the Identification of Roadless Area, Information needed for Forest Plan Revision and the Southern Appalachian Assessment, 10/21/94, (Appendix C) and the Clarification on Roadless Area Guidelines letter from the Regional Forester, dated March 14, 1995, (Appendix D)

Conclusion

After an evaluation based on the above criteria (see Appendix), Area #2, Wolfpen Creek, can be classified as a roadless area and may further meet the standards for Eastern Wilderness. The proximity of this area to Clifty Wilderness would allow it to become part of the Clifty Wilderness if found to meet Eastern Wilderness standards.

Appendix

A summary of the evaluation done on the twelve areas considered

Area/Name	Approx Acreage	Miles of Improved Roads	Miles/M acres	Comments/Improvements
#1 Clay Lick	4,450	3.42	0.77	Does not meet 0.5 mile/M acres road criteria. Impacted by sight and sound of Cave Run Lake, and State Route 801, both heavily used by motorized traffic.
#2 Wolfpen Ck	1,890	0	0	2 unimproved roads. Influenced by KY 77 on the west and KY 715 on the south. Bounded by Clifty Wilderness on the East. Heavily used segment of STNRT and trail to Indian Stairway.
#3 Chimney Top	3,895	0	0	Impacted by 9 heavily used trails in RRGGA. Impacted by Mountain Parkway on the south, KY 77 on the west, KY 715 on the north and FDR 10 on the east. Koomer Ridge Campground, Greys Arch Picnic Area and Chimney Top Vista are also in the area. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #4 & 5.
Expanded Areas 2 & 3	10,670	5.00	0.47	Impacted by numerous popular trails of Red River Gorge NRT, Koomer Ridge Campground, Greys Arch Picnic Area, Sky Bridge Picnic Area, Chimney Top Vista and FDR 10. KY Route 715 goes through the middle of this area. Does not meet requirements in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,4,5.
#4 RRGGA South	2,180	2.28	1.05	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. Extensive private developments in and on border, including oil wells. Has proposed Tight Hollow RNA in this area. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,4,5,8.
#5 Rockbridge Fork	1,280	1.06	0.82	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. 1.06 miles of County Jurisdiction Road. Impacted by FDR 24, and Mountain Parkway, both heavily used by recreationist. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #4,5.
#6 Mill Creek	2,230	8.78	3.90	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.
#7 Indian Ck.	1,435	2.30	1.64	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.
Expanded #7	3,300	7.80	2.36	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. 1.3 miles of County Road 678. 4-H Camp. Several old coal mine sites in the area. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.
#8 Cowhorn Ck.	2,304	4.90	2.10	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. 0.20 miles of county road to Davis Cemetary. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.
#9 Foster Mtn.	7,220	8.7	1.2	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. 8.7 miles of County jurisdiction roads. large number of private inholdings and associated access roads. Oil wells present. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.

Area/Name	Approx Acreage	Miles of Improved Roads	Miles/ M acres	Comments/Improvements
#10 Bear Ck.	7,680	15.0	1.9	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.
#11 Leatherwood Creek	4,370	6.90	1.58	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.
#12 Suger Ck.	9,830	9.5	0.96	Does not meet 0.5 miles/M acres road criteria. Extensive road system to access outstanding/reserved mineral rights. Does not meet requirements of FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.11b, #2,5.